



# THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL YAVAPAI

LWVCYC.org ♦ LWVCYC@gmail.com ♦ P. O. Box 11538, Prescott, AZ 86304 ♦ November 2023

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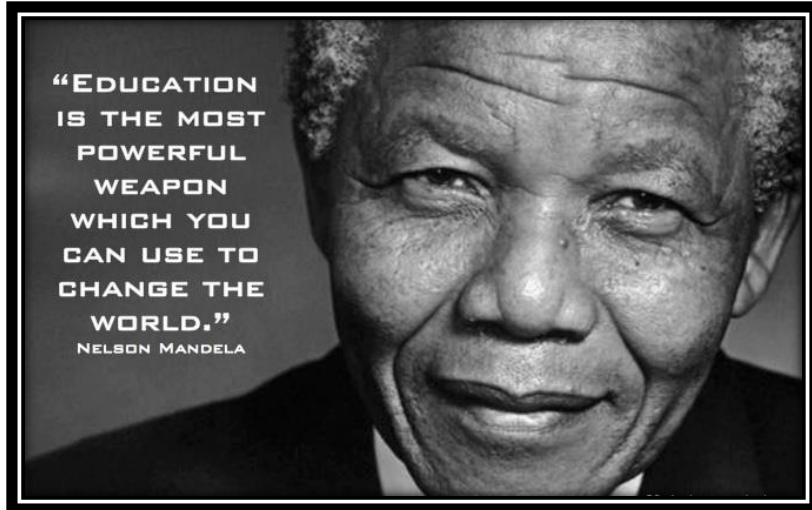
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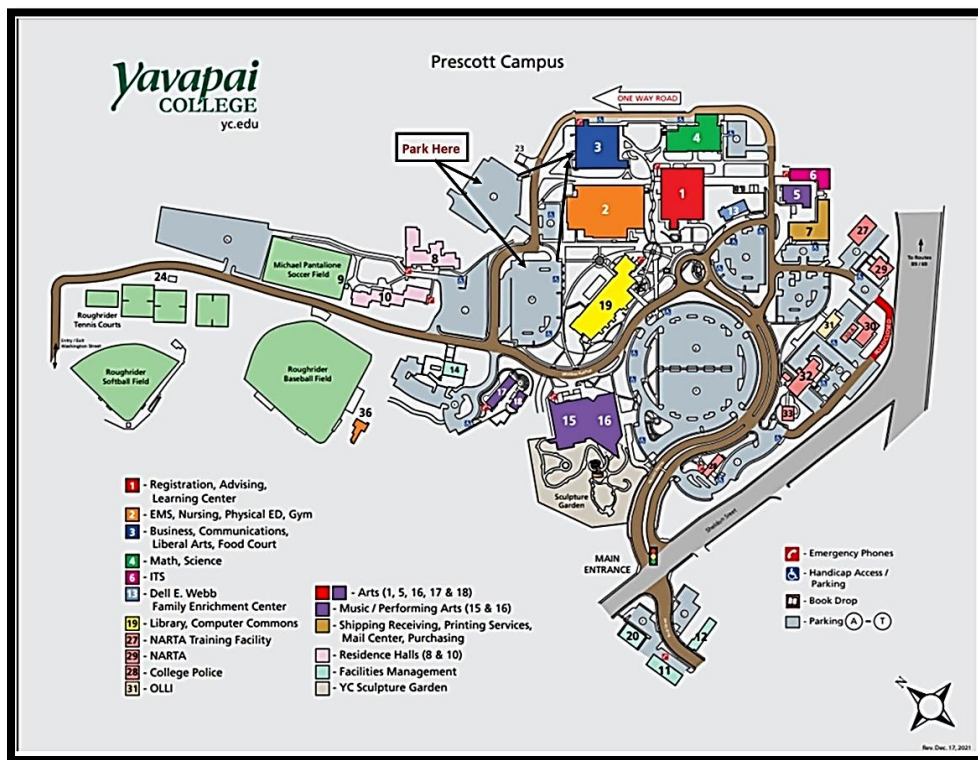
## PRESCOTT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE

A Conversation  
with PUSD Superintendent  
Clark Tenney



November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
A Lunch and Learn Program  
12:30 – 1:45 p.m.  
Yavapai College  
Building 3, Room 119





The LWVAZ formed a study team earlier this year, which I joined, to undertake a review and revision of the LWVAZ education position. The revision is in response, in part, to a number of bills introduced in the Arizona Legislature in the past several years that affect education but are not addressed in the current LWVAZ education position. Their absence from our current position has hindered the ability of the League to advocate for or against these bills. The study team has been meeting several times a month since August and is starting to draft revisions for the education position. A member survey will be distributed to all LWVAZ members soon. I urge you to respond to the survey and share your views and concerns regarding education in Arizona. *Lorraine West*

## LWVAZ PUBLIC POLICY POSITION ON EDUCATION

\*Currently being Updated

This position was originally adopted in 1979 and included public school finance, funding sources for schools, citizen participation and other concerns. In 1999 the position on charter schools was added and in 2005 the high stakes testing position was added. In 2017, LWVAZ adopted an updated education position.

### PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE

The Arizona State Constitution states that the legislature shall enact such laws as shall provide for the establishment and maintenance of a general and uniform public school system, which system shall include:

1. Kindergarten schools. 2. Common schools. 3. High schools. 4. Normal schools. 5. Industrial schools. 6. Universities...and for the care and education for hearing and vision impaired students. The state constitution declares that the revenue for the maintenance of the state's educational institutions shall be derived from the investment of the proceeds of the sale and rental of trust lands and from "appropriations, to be met by taxation, as shall insure the proper maintenance of all state educational institutions, and shall make such special appropriations as shall provide for their development and improvement." (Arizona Const., Article XI, Sec. 10)

As the Arizona Constitution recognizes education's importance, so too does the League of Women Voters of Arizona (LWVAZ) see the importance of high quality education for this state's citizens: 1) to lead satisfying lives,

2) to qualify for the increasingly challenging jobs in today's and tomorrow's economy, and 3) to function successfully as informed citizens of the United States' democracy.

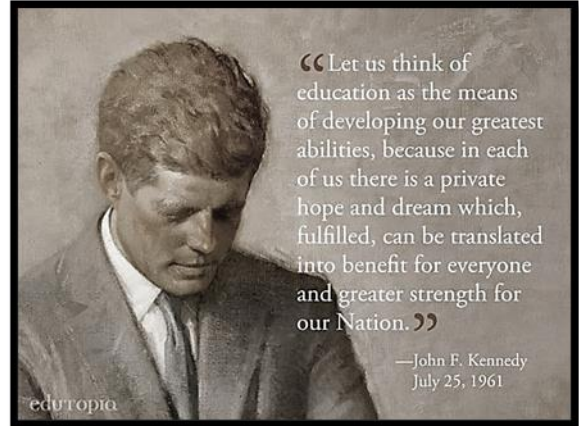
Therefore, the LWVAZ supports funding of a public education system that results in the uniform opportunity for all students to master the attitudes, knowledge, and skills necessary to thrive in a competitive and changing world.

More specifically, the LWVAZ supports the following:

### **Funding for Quality**

The primary goal of state and local school governing bodies is the achievement of the best quality education for the students in their districts / schools.

- The establishment of criteria for a best quality education for all students must be made prior to determining the formula for the distribution of monies.
- The criteria must be based always on current research, thought, and best practices regarding teaching and learning, and other factors impacting academic success such as school readiness, attendance, parent engagement, and enrichment programs beyond the normal school day/calendar year.



### **Collection of Funds**

Funds for education in Arizona are collected through district property taxes and equalized through state income and sales taxes from the State's General Fund. In addition, the League supports:

- Continued use of the state trust land's income from the Permanent Fund Investments.
- Funds determined through a public initiative or referendum. Funds generated through development impact fees.
- Bond and override funds determined by a majority of district voters.

### **Adequate Funding Formula**

The LWVAZ recognizes the inequities of the local school property tax. Therefore, the League supports a state funding formula which provides for:

- Decreased reliance on the local school district property tax and increased reliance on statewide taxes for support of public school education.
- Taxation by the state legislature to support public schools by a simple majority vote.
- An inflation allowance.
- A defined basic amount of money for each student.
- Financing over and above the basic amount to ensure equal opportunity for each student.
- Uniform maintenance of buildings.
- Uniform supplies.
- Nationally competitive salaries that recognize strong leaders, as well as experience and quality teaching.
- New monies that do not supplant present state funding.

### **Distribution of Funds**

The LWVAZ supports a uniform distribution of state funds to include:

- Capital funding.
- Additional allocations which are made based on recognition of differences in needs among district schools and between district and charter schools.
- Funds for special needs of students.
- Funds for the entire duration of mandated programs.
- Allocations for social services for students and their families.
- Allocations for safe, adequate and reliable transportation separate from base maintenance and operation support.

### **Fiscal Accountability**

All schools using public funds, including public charter schools, will be held fiscally accountable and will be held to the same standards of transparent operation that ensure fiscal accountability. The district and charter school budget format should call for specific information, such as program detail, salary schedules, and capital improvement programs. The LWVAZ opposes tax “credits” and funding schemes that divert and distort the distribution of funds intended to ensure a quality education for all children in Arizona public schools.

Therefore, the LWVAZ opposes vouchers to private schools, tuition tax credits, waivers, or direct payments to parents for school expenses of their children (as in Empowerment Scholarship Accounts). Public funds should be used only for public schools.

### **Local Participation in Decision Making & Distribution of Funds**

The LWVAZ supports the principle that the governmental entity closest to the school district constituency can best make decisions that will enhance the equal educational opportunity for all students. Therefore, the League urges these policies:

- The state distributes funds uniformly to public school districts and charters, and sets minimal general educational guidelines without inhibiting local decision making.
- The state will maintain a policy of local control on spending decisions, including ability to bond for school renovation and for capital improvements, as well as measures to equalize the ability of school districts to finance those portions of their budgets for which they are responsible on the local level.
- Local district and charter school governing bodies determine how funds are allocated in school budgets. The LWVAZ, always encouraging responsive government and informed citizen participation, believes that citizen participation is essential in the district and charter school budgeting process.

Therefore, the League supports the following:

- Advisory committees open to all citizens in the school community that provide citizen input into the district and public charter school budgetary processes.
- Timely citizen input into the district or public charter school budgetary process that allows for informed citizen influence on the allocation of funds in the budget.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION INSTRUCTION**

### **Academic Assessments**

The LWVAZ believes that no single assessment should be the deciding factor for graduation from high school. Therefore, the League supports a diploma being awarded to students who satisfactorily complete their course work.

The LWVAZ supports the use of district, state and/or other government-mandated assessments for the following purposes:

- Identifying and alleviating students’ academic difficulties in a timely manner.
- Identifying necessary changes in curriculum, methods, and materials.

The LWVAZ believes it is important for district and/or statewide assessments to be well-crafted, meaningful, and well-matched with the Arizona Standards. Therefore, the League supports the following:

- Utilizing Arizona K-12 educators to develop and write the questions for district and/or statewide assessments and educators from institutions of higher learning to evaluate these tests in their areas of expertise.
- Validating the tests to be sure they reflect the Arizona Standards and appropriate grade level academic proficiency.

If state and/or government-mandated assessment testing is required for high school graduation in Arizona, the League recognizes that provisions need to be made for those who fail. Therefore, the League supports retesting students who fail required state and/or government-mandated assessment(s) during their high school years.

Curricular areas not specifically tested or required as part of state and/or government-mandated assessments (such as vocational/technical/career education, visual and performing arts, social studies, science, health and physical education) shall be encouraged and shall not be curtailed.

### **Charter Schools**

The LWVAZ acknowledges that charter schools are public schools that are privately operated. Therefore, the League supports the following for charter schools:

- Provide charter schools more initial direction as they are started and organized, and continued oversight to comply with legal requirements.
- Hold charter schools to the same high standards as all Arizona public district schools.
- Charter schools that close must provide proper and timely notification to students' parents/guardians, as well as plan for an orderly transfer of students to an academically appropriate alternative.

Further, charter school operators must return property purchased with state funds and return any unspent state funds that have been appropriated from the Arizona General Fund.

With respect to Charter Schools, the LWVAZ also has the following concerns:

- Funding for charter schools may negatively impact funds available for public district schools.
- Charter schools may not be utilizing standardized sequential curriculum.

### Additional Education Policies & Practices

The LWVAZ supports the following policies and practices that relate to public district and charter schools:

- All public schools should be permitted and encouraged to innovate. They must be allowed flexibility on class size, length of school day, teaching techniques, and special subject focus (such as science, the arts, technology).
- All public district and charter school teachers must be certified by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) as "well-qualified".
- Annual and equitable academic evaluation of charter and district schools should occur.
- The ADE should be sufficiently staffed to ensure student achievement is properly monitored in both public district and charter schools.
- The school curriculum for both public district and charter schools must comply with standards set by the Arizona State Board of Education.
- School ranking must not be based solely on test scores.
- Public information about public district and charter schools must be accessible to all.
- An efficient system of tracking students as they move between schools/participate in open enrollment or other school choice options must be developed and adopted.
- School districts should be reorganized only if doing so will enhance the education of all students in the reorganized districts.

**FREE WEBINARS**

# Productive conversations without confrontation

In partnership with

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CIVIL DISCOURSE** | **LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATION FUND**

**News Literacy Project**

1 **Oct. 24** 4 P.M. ET/1 P.M. PT

2 **Nov. 16** 7 P.M. ET/4 P.M. PT

This FREE webinar will be presented in partnership with [League of Women Voters of the US](#) and the [National Institute for Civil Discourse](#) and will offer strategies for having effective, civil discussions – especially when discussing misinformation.

To register for the November 16th event, here is the link: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Daylight savings time may affect the time of the webinar!

## Arizona for Abortion Access Citizens' Initiative

- **Overview**
  - LWV Arizona board approved endorsement and supporting work to ensure the signature gathering and ballot initiative is successful
  - Recent polling shows that 62% of Arizonans support safe and legal abortion
  - [Read](#) all about The Arizona for Abortion Access ballot initiative and the League's role
  - The campaign needs 383,923 valid signatures to get on the ballot & is aiming for more than 700K
  - League is a member of the field committee and committed to collecting 10,000 signatures
- **Opportunities**
  - We need Depots and Hubs
  - Encourage members to complete the [volunteer survey](#)
- **Timeline**
  - In progress
  - July 3, 2024 deadline to submit signatures to SOS
- **Training**
  - For Petition Circulators (will be recorded). Register in advance
    - Nov 2 1:00 - 2:00 PM  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98254123456>
    - Nov 9 1:00 - 2:00 PM  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/1234567890123>

## Arizona for Abortion Access Campaign and League Involvement

### About the Campaign

Arizona for Abortion Access is a coalition of reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations working to ensure Arizonans can make the decisions that are best for them and their families — free from government interference. This ballot committee is supported by the ACLU of Arizona, Affirm Sexual and Reproductive Health, Arizona List, Healthcare Rising Arizona, Reproductive Freedom for All Arizona (formerly NARAL Arizona), and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona. Together, these organizations represent hundreds of thousands of Arizonans in every community and from every walk of life.

These trusted institutions have worked extensively together protecting and expanding abortion access over the years. They have now partnered to begin collecting signatures to place a constitutional amendment on the November 2024 ballot. This amendment will protect abortion access in Arizona and ensure every person can make this deeply personal decision with dignity.

### About the Initiative

The “Arizona Abortion Access Act” would enshrine the fundamental right to abortion in Arizona’s constitution. If passed, this measure would ensure freedom for a person to make their own decision on abortion. This is a deeply personal decision that most Arizonans believe should be made without interference from the government.

[Arizona for Abortion Access Website](#)

[Petition I-05-2024 Arizona Abortion Access Act](#)

### The League’s Role

The League of Women Voters of Arizona has a key role as a member of the field committee organized under the auspices of Health Care Rising (HCR). We have committed to obtaining a minimum of 10,000 signatures supporting the Arizona for Abortion Access ballot measure. The deadline for submitting signatures to the Arizona Secretary of State is July 3, 2024. Our goal is to submit our petitions to the campaign by June 30, 2024, to allow time for the campaign to quality-check the petitions.

The League petitions are identified by numbers within a range. **For the League to get credit for the signatures, we urge our members to seek out a League location (see below) and sign our petitions.**

### **Legal Requirements for Non-residents**

Volunteers managing Depots and Hubs and petition circulators must register with the Secretary of State's Office if they are not Arizona residents (may affect college students and seasonal residents). Source: [SOS Circulator Portal. Arizona Petition Circulator Training Guide](#)

### **Distributing and Collecting Petitions**

**Depots - We have one member who has volunteered to be our League's Depot.**

#### ○ **Responsibilities**

- Obtain a supply of petitions from a central location to distribute to Hubs
- Keep track of the petitions as they are distributed to and returned by the Hubs; LWVAZ will provide a tracking tool
- Accept completed petitions from Hubs
- Provide notary services on-site or refer signature volunteers to notary services
- Store and distribute supplies such as signage, handouts, flyers, and other collateral
- Perform a quality check of the returned petitions; for example,
  - Has each sheet been notarized
  - Is each sheet county-specific
- Return completed petitions to the AAA campaign
- Learn the AAA petition signature guidelines and teach them to signature volunteers
- Be available as a signing location for League members and others

#### ○ **Locations** - identified by each local league; strategically located within each league's service area

- LWV MP and LWV NWMC - 6 locations ( For example.... )
- LWV Greater Tucson and environs - 4
- LWV CYC - 2
- LWV NAZ - 3

**Hubs - We need volunteers to host a hub.**

#### **Responsibilities**

Pick up petitions and return them to a Depot

Keep track of the petitions as they are picked up and returned by League members; LWVAZ will provide tracking tool

Follow up on unreturned petitions

Be available as a signing location for League members and others

#### **Locations**

- Hub locations can be members' homes or offices or a designated location, such as a coffee shop, outside a library, in a parking lot
- Hub volunteers can host a petition signing event at their home by invitation
- We would like the Hub Locations to be identified by each local league, strategically & conveniently located to ensure the broadest geographic coverage in your league's service area

#### **Collect Signatures**

- Pick up petitions from a LWVAZ Hub
- Collect signatures using AAA petition signature guidelines
- Take signed petitions to a notary to have them notarized
- Return signed petitions to a LWVAZ Hub

**Support** - Each petition circulator will get a handout outlining does and don'ts

## Training Sign up for a “train the trainer” session

- Helpful for those managing a Depot, Hub, or collecting signatures but is not required
- Serve as a resource for our volunteers in the field

## Training for Petition Circulators - Register in advance

Nov 2 1:00 - 2:00 PM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpde2vrDoqE9B49LN0XNbUKAZ-aN7qdpMc>

Nov 9 1:00 - 2:00 PM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlfuuppj4vH9THVm9RFZA-0x8-DAylki8g>

## How to Volunteer

We know our members are eager to start this critical project, so you must raise your hand to volunteer for the roles described above so we can be efficient and successful! Complete this [SHORT SURVEY](#) and let us know how you want to help. Thank you for your continued support.

**\*\*\* Sign a petition assigned to the LWV - Make a difference, one signature at a time!\*\*\***



## Upcoming and Ongoing Advocacy!

### **Issue Teams for Advocacy**

- Legislative Analysis Team (LAT)
  - Issue teams include Voting Rights, Women's Rights, Education, Climate Gun Safety, Criminal Justice, Ranked Choice Voting
  - Research bills and write up pros and cons in plain English.
  - Track bills through the legislative process
  - Monitor the press for articles on bills/ issues of interest.
  - Provide administrative support.
- Other advocacy actions, ex, the women's rights issue team is leading our participation in the Arizona for Abortion Access ballot initiative.

### **Volunteer Lobby Corps**

- Prepare & give testimony (verbally or written) as authorized & approved by state advocacy chair(s) & professional lobbyist.
  - Testimony based on LAT bill analysis and talking points.
- Observe committee hearings as needed.
- Use RTS to convey the League's stance on bills of interest.

### **Legislative Lobby Week February 12 - 16, 2024**

- Mon - Thurs Virtual lunch and learn programs via Zoom.
- Friday In person at the Capitol
  - Planning events and assisting day at the Capitol.
  - Planning topics for lunch and learn.
  - Suggesting and contacting speakers.
  - Providing tech support.

### **VOTE411**

- Identify races and candidates.
- Write candidate questions.
- Ballot measure analysis and description
- Spanish translations
- Publicity
- Operational support
- Provide training.

### **Outreach / Calls to Action**

- Request To Speak (RTS)
- Text using Outreach Circle / League in Action
- Follow and act on our calls to action.

### **State Advocacy Interns - we are hiring!**

- [Intern Scope of Work and Application](#)
- Projects may include:
  - Defend Democracy projects.
  - Issue team and League advocacy to influence legislation.
  - Vote411 (League electronic voters guide) assistance
  - Advocacy and Action newsletter preparation
  - State board administrative and tech assistance
  - Social media support
  - Spanish translations

### **Miss the Advocacy Update Webinar? Here's the link:**

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox/FMfcgzGwHLpZmkHjgmsHntCNKHnjZCQf?projector=1>

**\*\*Email to ask questions and volunteer\*\***





YOU ARE INVITED TO THE LWVCYC

# 2024

AFTER HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024

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Tickets are \$45 – Paid in Advance  
Limited to 30 LWVCYC Members Only

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Tormé Restaurant  
Barry Barbe, Chef Owner  
is offering a fabulous menu to select from!

GUEST SPEAKER: Kris Mayes, AZ Attorney  
General

Mark your calendars!  
You CAN reserve your seat now through Zelle: at  
[lwvcyc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcyc@gmail.com)



Mail Address: P.O. Box 11538, Prescott, AZ 86304  
 Web: LWVCYC.ORG Email address: lwvcyc@gmail.com

**2023-2024 LWVCYC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of additional member(s) in household: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Member information – Note type of membership and make check to LWVCYC.**

*Voting Member(s)*

*Non-Voting Member(s)*

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60/yr Individual Membership

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Associate/ Friend of the League

\_\_\_\_\_ \$90/yr Household Membership

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to our local League operations

Local League membership dues and donations are **not** tax deductible. Your support helps our Voter Service and local program activities! Please include this form with your check(s). Membership can also be renewed using Zelle at [lwvcyc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcyc@gmail.com) or through PayPal at our website, LWVCYC.org using the join/donate tab.

**Donations to the LWVAZ Education Fund and Elisabeth Ruffner Scholarship**

**Fund.** Make check out to LWVAZ Education fund with notation as to where it is to be used. Contributions to 501 (c) 3 funds are tax deductible and must be made by **separate check** to preserve tax deductibility. Thank You

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to LWVAZ Elisabeth Ruffner Scholarship Fund 501(c)3. *The funds you contribute under this program will be used for the Scholarship program.*

Make Ruffner Scholarship Fund check payable to: **LWVAZ Education Fund** write on notation line: **CYC-Scholarship**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to LWVAZ Education Fund 501(c) 3 *The funds you contribute to the League of Women Voters Education Fund under this program may be used to support the charitable and educational activities of our League.* Make Education Fund check payable to: **LWVAZ Education Fund** write on notation line: **CYC General**

You may also make donations to the Education Funds through PayPal or Zelle by following the donation link on our website: LWVCYC.org

For Membership Use: Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership / Renewal form (05/12/2023)